

# Remember Our Priests in Prayer on Their Memorial Days

Jan. 1, 1949 Fr. Basil Heim, OFM Cap	Mar. 28, 1900 Fr. Paul Ponziglione, SJ	July 12, 1941 Fr. John Davern	Oct. 1, 1970 Archbishop Joseph Hunkeler
Jan. 1, 1997 Fr. Patrick Downey	Mar. 29, 1986 Fr. John Vesecky	July 13, 2004 Fr. George Heinzen, CPPS	Oct. 2, 1939 Bishop August Schwertner
Jan. 1, 2002 Fr. John P. Kowal	May 30, 1917 Fr. Bernard Vonderlage	July 13, 1920 Bishop John J. Hennessy	Oct. 2, 1943 Fr. Joseph Kovalski
Jan. 3, 1948 Fr. Bernardine Kuhlmann, OFM Cap	Mar. 30, 1983 Fr. Joseph Biegler, CPPS	July 14, 1935 Fr. John Faber	Oct. 3, 1985 Fr. Ernest Lucas, CPPS
Jan. 3, 1949 Fr. Norbert Staab	Mar. 31, 1999 Fr. Elmer Klenke	July 14, 1974 Fr. Michael Kavanaugh, OP	Oct. 4, 1968 Fr. John O'Flynn
Jan. 4, 1924 Fr. Charles Kearful	Apr. 2, 1983 Fr. William Stehle, OFM Cap	July 14, 1997 Fr. James Hinton, CPPS	Oct. 6, 1981 Msgr. Joseph Klug
Jan. 4, 1996 Fr. Jerome Wolf, CPPS	Apr. 5, 1988 Fr. Hugh Rauwolf, OFM Cap	July 16, 1951 Bishop Stephan A. Appelhans, S.V.D.	Oct. 7, 1948 Fr. Romuald Fox, OSB
Jan. 5, 1980 Fr. Felician Brookman, OFM Cap	Apr. 5, 2005 Msgr. George Schmidt	July 17, 1948 Fr. Thomas O'Brien	Oct. 11, 1967 Msgr. J. George Herrman
Jan. 6, 2007 Fr. Vincent Hogan	Apr. 6, 2008 Fr. Arthur Kinsella, OP	July 18, 1911 Fr. Michael J. Casey	Oct. 11, 2008 Fr. Edward Steinberger
Jan. 6, 2000 Fr. Stephen Wylie	Apr. 7, 1990 Fr. Louis Struble	July 18, 1973 Fr. John Lilly, S.J.	Oct. 12, 1920 Fr. Pedro Bainac, CMF
Jan. 7, 1981 Fr. Stanislaus Esser	Apr. 7, 1997 Fr. Columkille Francis Colbert	July 19, 1946 Fr. Francis Dombrowsky	Oct. 13, 2001 Fr. John Angers, OP
Jan. 7, 1962 Fr. Francis Jerasa	Apr. 9, 1945 Fr. Austin Hull	July 20, 1960 Fr. Peter Stremel	Oct. 14, 1953 Msgr. John Butler
Jan. 8, 1966 Fr. Urban Hoying, CPPS	Apr. 9, 1949 Fr. Maurice Ackerman, OFM Cap	July 21, 1884. Bishop John Baptist Miega, S.J.	Oct. 15, 1984 Fr. Walter Junk, CPPS
Jan. 9, 1977 Msgr. Joseph Grellner	April 9, 1963 Father Vincent Keinberger, OP	July 22, 1957 Fr. Francis Laudick, CPPS	Oct. 16, 2003 Archbishop Ignatius Strecker
Jan. 10, 1985 Fr. Maurus Kennedy, OSB	Apr. 9, 1981 Fr. Kenneth Seberger, CPPS	July 22, 1957 Fr. Ildephonse Roeckl, OFM Cap	Oct. 17, 1942 Fr. Alexander Linnemann, CPPS
Jan. 10, 1901 Prior O. Moosemueller, OSB	Apr. 10, 1941 Fr. August Zink	July 22, 1981 Fr. Alex Stremel	Oct. 17, 1967 Fr. Anthony Poedgorsek
Jan. 11, 2004 Fr. Jacob J. Dreher	Apr. 10, 1952 Fr. Herman Leiker, OFM Cap	July 23, 1914 Fr. James Cronin	Oct. 17, 1999 Msgr. George Stewart
Jan. 11, 1942 Fr. Albert Wiekmann	Apr. 11, 1953 Fr. Bernard Garmann	July 23, 1938 Fr. John Smolej	Oct. 18, 1998 Msgr. Joseph Gerstenkorn
Jan. 12, 1985 Bishop Mark K. Carroll	Apr. 11, 1991 Fr. Carl Johnson	July 23, 1947 Fr. Placid Wolker, OFM Cap	Oct. 20, 1978 Msgr. A.A. Hermann
Jan. 14, 1940 Fr. Joseph Kirmer	Apr. 12, 1995 Fr. Richard Kolega, CPPS	July 24, 1954 Fr. Leo Debes	Oct. 22, 1921 Father Herman Joseph Weber
Jan. 14, 1940 Bishop John Henry Tihen	Apr. 16, 1947 Fr. John Marks Handly, CSP	July 24, 1954 Fr. J. Mayerhoefer, OFM Cap	Oct. 22, 1990 Msgr. Stephen Reif
Jan. 15, 1978 Fr. Eugene Becker, OFM Cap	Apr. 18, 1991 Father Edward Franz	July 25, 1924 Fr. John Huna	Oct. 23, 1971 Fr. Cornelius Leunissen
Jan. 15, 2002 Fr. Andrew McGovern	Apr. 21, 1982 Fr. George Karlin, OFM Cap	July 26, 1946 Fr. Anthony Mages	Oct. 28, 2010 Fr. Jimmy Barrozo
Jan. 16, 2000 Fr. Emil Schneweis, OFM Cap	Apr. 22, 1993 Fr. Justin Betzen	July 26, 1887 Bishop-elect James O'Reilly	Oct. 30, 1957 Fr. Daniel Lynch
Jan. 17, 1958 Fr. Harry Wibbels, CPPS	Apr. 23, 1999 Fr. Joseph Knoeber, OMI	July 27, 1937 Fr. Michael Mennis	Oct. 30, 1965 Fr. Vincent Hughes, OP
Jan. 18, 1951 Fr. Oscar Vogel	Apr. 24, 1996 Msgr. Anthony Dziemian	July 27, 1970 Fr. F. Kirchgessner, OFM Cap	Oct. 31, 1887 Fr. Felix Swembergh
Jan. 18, 2007 Fr. Austin Herrman, CPPS	Apr. 24, 1942 Msgr. Godfrey Birrenbach	July 27, 1979 Fr. Emil Meyer, CPPS	Oct. 31, 1981 Fr. Flavin Meis, OFM Cap
Jan. 21, 1995 Fr. Louis Telegdy, CPPS	Apr. 28, 1963 Fr. Francis Hayden	July 29, 1974 Father Thomas Smith, OP	Nov. 1, 1941 Fr. Colin Niederpruem
Jan. 24, 1968 Fr. Hubert Kremer, OFM Cap	Apr. 29, 1985 Fr. Edward Kingston, C.S.Sp.	July 30, 1968 Fr. Leander Yoest, OFM Cap	Nov. 2, 1959 Fr. Norbert Staab
Jan. 24, 1973 Fr. Casimir Debef, OFM Cap	Apr. 30, 2009 Msgr. Patrick Leahy	July 31, 1970 Fr. Leonard Burghart	Nov. 2, 1963 Fr. Francis Heyer
Jan. 24, 1977 Msgr. Aloysius Felling	Apr. 30, 1999 Fr. George Mueller	July 31, 1991 Fr. Cletus Bihn, CPPS	Nov. 4, 2005 Fr. Edmund Weigel, CPPS
Jan. 25, 1897 Fr. Valentine Sommereisen	May 5, 1997 Fr. Alexander Leiker, CPPS	Aug. 3, 2006 Fr. Gerald Hammeke	Nov. 6, 1978 Msgr. John Zenner
Jan. 25, 1946 Fr. Andrew Herrmann, OFM Cap	May 5, 1938 Fr. Bernard Drath	Aug. 4, 1951 Fr. Anthony Burkhardt, OFM Cap	Nov. 9, 1958 Fr. Joseph Hirschfeld
Jan. 26, 1978 Fr. Julian Voskuhl, CPPS	May 5, 1953 Fr. Cyril Zeller, OFM Cap	Aug. 7, 1925 Fr. Leon Epp	Nov. 9, 1959 Fr. Vergil Kuhn, OFM Cap
Jan. 27, 1939 Fr. William Paul	May 8, 1973 Fr. Robert Herklotz	Aug. 7, 2002 Fr. Rory O'Neill	Nov. 12, 1960 Fr. Matthew Hall, OSB
Jan. 28, 1941 Fr. Albrecht Kienhoefer	May 9, 1999 Fr. Leo Brand, CPPS	Aug. 8, 1951 Fr. Francis Butler	Nov. 14, 1995 Fr. Herman Herbst, CPPS
Jan. 30, 1967 Fr. Max Herber, CPPS	May 11, 2001 Fr. Kenan Crowley, OFM Cap	Aug. 9, 1959 Fr. Richard Dei	Nov. 14, 2000 Fr. William A. Vogel
Jan. 30, 1967 Fr. Evaristus J. Olberding, CPPS	May 12, 1959 Fr. Arthur Vallve, CMF	Aug. 9, 1970 Fr. John Kostik, CPPS	Nov. 16, 1981 Fr. Otto Diller, CPPS
Jan. 31, 1998 Fr. Donald Pikell, OP	May 13, 1938 Fr. John Disselkamp	Aug. 10, 1936 Fr. John Chawke	Nov. 18, 1946 Bishop Christian Winkelmann
Jan. 31, 1962 Fr. Joseph Stutz	May 16, 1992 Fr. F. Raymond Schmidt	Aug. 10, 1972 Fr. Charles Winter, C.S.s.R.	Nov. 18, 1973 Fr. Cyprian Gehrling, OFM Cap
Feb. 1, 1920 Fr. Denis Healy	May 16, 2003 Fr. Aloys Friedrich, CPPS	Aug. 12, 1927 Father Michael Browne	Nov. 19, 1968 Fr. Edmund Pusch, OSB
Feb. 1, 1945 Fr. Edmund Trischler, OFM Cap	May 17, 1952 Fr. Michael Neff, OFM Cap	Aug. 12, 2005 Fr. John Lavrih	Nov. 20, 2001 Fr. Augustine Hanchak, CPPS
Feb. 2, 1980 Fr. Joseph Oenbrink	May 17, 1988 Fr. Theo. Rath, CPPS	Aug. 13, 1966 Fr. Paul Schreiber	Nov. 23, 1995 Fr. Joseph Tockert
Feb. 6, 1951 Fr. Theophile Hard	May 18, 1964 Msgr. Mathias Gorges	Aug. 14, 1957 Fr. Francis Rehberger, CPPS	Nov. 24, 1959 Fr. Alban Hammel, OFM Cap
Feb. 9, 2008 Fr. Joseph Schreck, OFM Cap	May 19, 1978 Fr. Joseph Staudinger, OSB	Aug. 15, 2006 Fr. David Dougherty, CPPS	Nov. 25, 1941 Fr. Matthew Brady
Feb. 9, 1955 Fr. James Murphy	May 23, 1951 Fr. Emil Kapaun, 'Servant of God'	Aug. 15, 1920 Fr. P.J. MacCorry, CSP	Nov. 26, 1973 Fr. A. Brunswick, CPPS
Feb. 9, 1993 Fr. Maurice Tasset	May 23, 1978 Msgr. Aloysius Clupny	Aug. 16, 1957 Fr. George Schneider	Nov. 30, 1544 Fr. Juan de Padilla
Feb. 12, 1956 Fr. Hilary Hernandez	May 24, 1935 Fr. George Sittenauer	Aug. 16, 2006 Fr. Dennis Reed	Dec. 1, 1876 Fr. Phillip Colleton, SJ
Feb. 12, 1962 Msgr. John Steines	May 25, 1966 Fr. John Mootz, S.J.	Aug. 17, 1951 Fr. August Heimann	Dec. 1, 1952 Fr. Gilbert Stickelmaier, OFM Cap
Feb. 13, 1888 Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy	May 26, 2005 Archbishop Brian Usanga	Aug. 18, 1933 Fr. Jeremiah Lenehan	Dec. 1, 1969 Fr. Ulric Zeller, OFM Cap
Feb. 16, 1937 Fr. Stephen Hermanns	May 27, 1979 Fr. Leonard Torline	Aug. 20, 1954 Fr. Salesius Schneweis, OFM Cap	Dec. 1, 1991 Fr. Leo Weigel, CPPS
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Feb. 17, 1959 Fr. Werner Rauh, CPPS	May 30, 1956 Fr. John Cody	Aug. 22, 1971 Fr. George Konda	Dec. 2, 1979 Msgr. William Schaffers
Feb. 18, 1954 Fr. Victor Heithaus	May 30, 1963 Msgr. Vincent Smith	Aug. 24, 2009 Father David O'Leary	Dec. 3, 1991 Fr. Albert Esswein
Feb. 19, 1970 Fr. Clayton Noll, CPPS	June 2, 1913 Fr. F.J. Borniger	Aug. 28, 1953 Fr. Harry Cabell	Dec. 4, 1920 Fr. Joseph Bogner
Feb. 20, 1963 Fr. Kenneth Fee, OFM Cap	June 2, 2007 Bishop Marion F. Forst	Aug. 29, 1972 Fr. Louis DuPont	Dec. 4, 1959 Fr. Norbert Missler, CPPS
Feb. 20, 2004 Fr. Emil Dinkel, CPPS	June 3, 2003 Fr. Wenzel Birzer	Aug. 31, 1932 Fr. Werner Emmerich	Dec. 5, 2006 Fr. Arnold Meiring, CPPS
Feb. 21, 1959 Fr. Thomas McKernan	June 6, 1976 Msgr. Nicholas Cody	Aug. 31, 2003 Fr. James Grothjan, CPPS	Dec. 8, 1988 Fr. Urban Iffert, CPPS
Feb. 21, 1998 Fr. Benedict D'Angelo, CPPS	June 10, 1927 Fr. Adolph Wibbert	Sept. 3, 1922 Fr. John Sullivan	Dec. 9, 1995 Fr. Leroy Matz
Feb. 23, 1961 Fr. William Vogel	June 11, 1935 Fr. William Rice	Sept. 3, 1947 Msgr. Leo Klasinski	Dec. 9, 2008 Fr. James Kelly
Feb. 24, 1966 Fr. Charles Dugan	June 11, 1973 Fr. Frank Baumstark	Sept. 4, 1979 Fr. Henry Balster, CPPS	Dec. 11, 1907 Fr. Anthony Abel
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Feb. 29, 1996 Msgr. Joseph Stremel	June 20, 1963 Fr. Peter Kaub	Sept. 7, 2009 Fr. Francis Zan	Dec. 12, 1981 Fr. Clifford Landis
Mar. 1, 1948 Fr. Michael Casey	June 22, 1969 Fr. Antimo Gete (Nebreda), CMF	Sept. 9, 1959 Fr. Michael O'Donovan	Dec. 13, 2003 Fr. John Rusteika
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Mar. 5, 1958 Fr. Raymond Woydziak, OSB	June 23, 1939 Father Martin Fuchs, OFM Cap	Sept. 10, 1973 Fr. Celestine Rohr, OFM Cap	Dec. 14, 1956 Father Julian Patterson, OFM Cap
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Mar. 10, 2002 Fr. Eugene Robl	July 1, 1961 Fr. Frank Huslig	Sept. 21, 1949 Fr. George Reinschmidt	Dec. 22, 1945 Fr. Joseph Manz
Mar. 13, 1951 Fr. J. Luke Carroll	July 1, 2004 Msgr. A. F. Preisner	Sept. 21, 1988 Fr. Kieran Murray	Dec. 22, 1958 Father Walter Herrmann, OFM Cap
Mar. 15, 1977 Msgr. Anthony Meyers	July 3, 1992 Bishop John Baptist Franz	Sept. 21, 1992 Fr. James Tainter	Dec. 23, 1923 Fr. Boniface Verheyen, OSB
Mar. 17, 1904 Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB	July 5, 1994 Fr. Donald Heim	Sept. 22, 1938 Fr. Joseph Schuetz	Dec. 24, 1942 Fr. Jacob Schauf
Mar. 20, 1977 Msgr. Leo Kelty	July 5, 1996 Fr. Herbert Eilerman, CPPS	Sept. 22, 1966 Fr. John Newton, CPPS	Dec. 26, 1981 Fr. H.J. Schulte
March 21, 1931 Father Gerardus Wiersma, SSJ	July 6, 1965 Fr. Mathias Gallenz, OFM Cap	Sept. 23, 2005 Fr. Adolph Stremel	Dec. 27, 1930 Fr. Philip Knupfer, OFM Cap
Mar. 23, 1937 Fr. Maurice Reidy	July 7, 1979 Msgr. John Moeder	Sept. 24, 1963 Father John Smith, OP	Dec. 27, 1993 Msgr. George Husmann
Mar. 23, 1946 Fr. R. Serrano, CMF	July 7, 1993 Fr. Lawrence Traffas, C.S.s.R.	Sept. 24, 1972 Fr. John Kellerer	Dec. 29, 1979 Fr. Camillus Schmitt, OFM Cap
Mar. 23, 1969 Fr. John Bast	July 9, 1911 Fr. William Bitter	Sept. 28, 1967 Fr. Raymond Ryan, OFM Cap	Dec. 29, 1980 Fr. Jordan Hammel, OFM Cap
Mar. 25, 1940 Fr. Nicholas Neusius	July 9, 1953 Fr. John Dambach	Sept. 28, 2005 Fr. Eugene van Sloun	Dec. 31, 1940 Fr. F.A. Lombardi
Mar. 25, 1930 Fr. Charles Dragoun	July 9, 1956 Fr. Anthony Meyer, CPPS	Sept. 30, 1939 Fr. Alfred Walsh	Dec. 31, 1950 Fr. Lambert Brookman, OFM Cap
Mar. 27, 1963 Msgr. Martin Thomas Meehan	July 12, 1931 Fr. Rudolph Stollenwerk	Oct. 1, 1940 Msgr. J.A. Pompenev	Dec. 31, 1957 Fr. T.J. O'Sullivan


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This saint was born in the third century (between 250 and 300 AD) in the village of Patara, which at the time was considered Greek, but is now the southern coast of Turkey.

His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian, but died during an epidemic when this saint was still young.

With his faith firmly intact, this young man took to heart the words of Jesus to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor." He used his entire inheritance to help the sick and needy and the suffering.

While still a relatively young man, he was made Bishop of Myra (a city on the southern Mediterranean sea coast of what is now Turkey). He became known for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Like other Christians, he was later imprisoned for his faith, but eventually released. He died on Dec. 6, 343 AD.

See the answer below.



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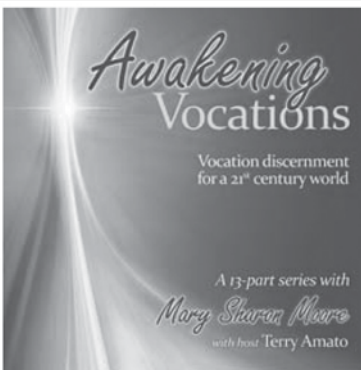


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### ANSWERS

- FIRST: Do not let Christ-  
mas end at Christmas! Cel-  
-brate the season all year  
round!  
SECOND:  
1. Better safe than sorry  
2. Wheel of Fortune  
3. Hard times ahead  
4. Black eyed peas
- THIRD:  
5. Jumbo Jet  
6. Minimize  
NAME the SAINT:  
St. Nicholas

# Pope prays for migrants, encourages international assistance

By KRISTIN GOBBERG

*Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI expressed concern for the millions of migrants around the world, and encouraged the agencies trying to help them.

"I entrust to the Lord all those who, often forcibly, must leave their homeland, or who are stateless," the pope said at his noon blessing Dec. 4.

"While I encourage solidarity for them, I pray for all those who are doing their utmost to protect and assist these brothers and sisters in emergency situations, even if it means exposing themselves to serious hardships and dangers," he said.

The pope noted the upcoming anniversaries of international conventions dedicated to assisting migrants worldwide. In early December, government representatives were to meet in Geneva to mark the 60th anniversary of the International Organization for Migration and discuss migration issues.

The next day, the Vatican announced that the international organization had accepted the Holy See as a full member state.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to international organizations based in Geneva, told Vatican Radio Dec. 5, "At a time when we're seeing a continuous increase in migrants, refugees and people on the move for various reasons, it's important to be present and participate in the efforts of the international community to bring something specific, which is typical of the Holy See: an ethical voice."

The archbishop said for centuries Catholics have generously assisted migrants and refugees "independently of their religious faith, their color and their legal situation. It is the human person, the dignity of the human person that counts and frequently is at risk in the situations of marginalization created in moving from one country to another."

Being a full member of the International Organization for Migration, rather than a permanent observer as the Vatican is with many U.N. agencies, will give the Vatican a stronger voice in an area where politics is not as important as meeting real human needs, the archbishop said.

Participating in the general debate at the organization's session Dec. 5 in Geneva, Archbishop Tomasi called for greater efforts to promote "a positive perception of migrants," especially at a time when economic hardships have led to a false impression that newcomers are taking people's jobs and are a burden on society.

"There is clear and accumulating evidence about the positive economic contribution made by migrants to their new countries through the taxes they pay, the new businesses they start and the variety of services they provide that range from jobs that are considered socially less attractive, although necessary, to the care of family members who are disabled, elderly or very young," the archbishop said.

In addition, "migrants make visible the link that binds the whole human family together," he said, and their potential to improve society becomes a reality as "they too open themselves to receive and appreciate the basic values of the new society so that a common and richer future

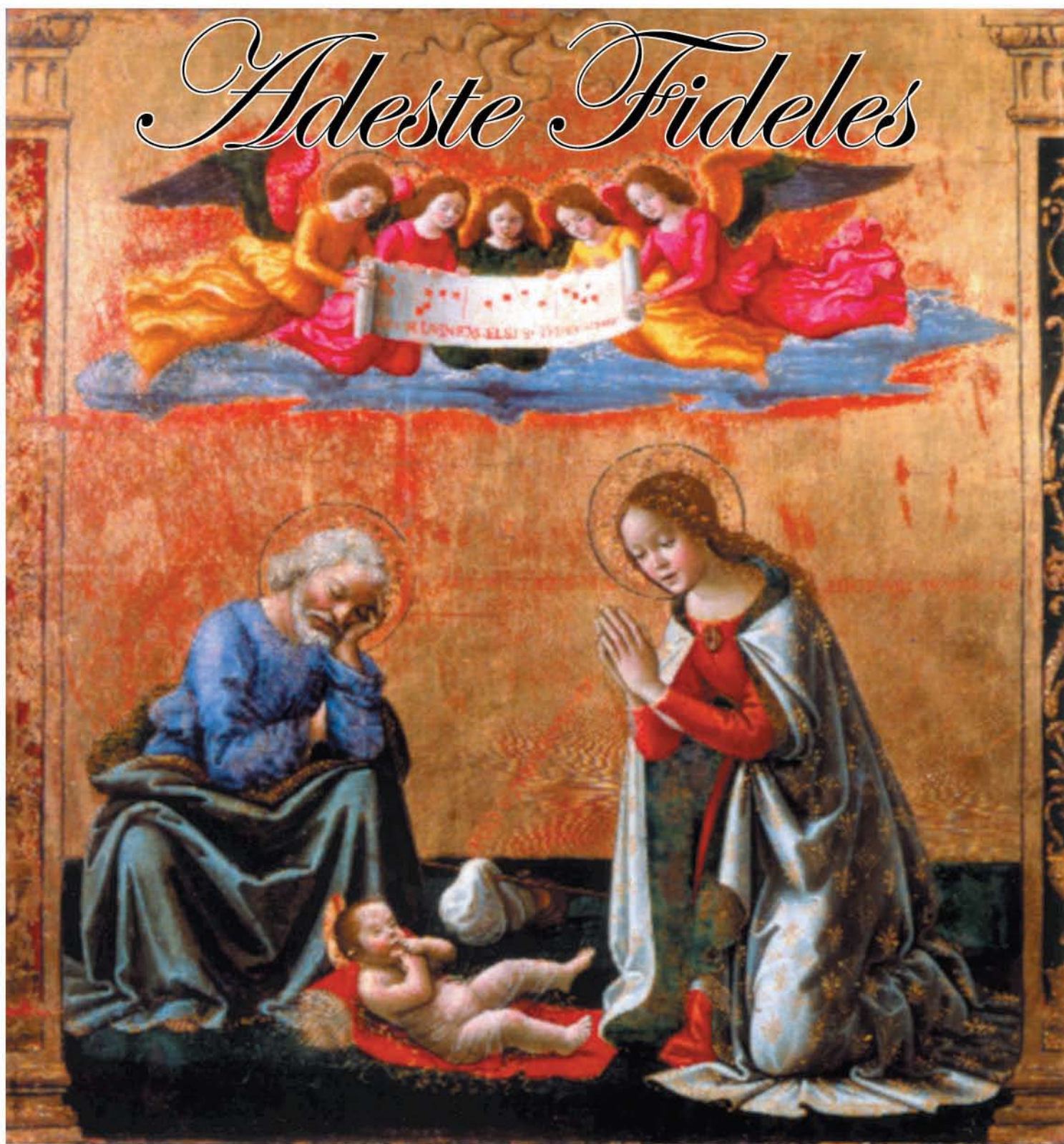
may be built together."

In his Angelus address, the pope also noted the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

In his remarks to pilgrims on the second Sunday of Advent, the pope called Advent "a season of inner preparation for the coming of the Lord" and a time that recognizes the important roles filled by Mary and St. John the Baptist in preparation for the coming of Jesus.



In this file photo, girls from a Latino dance group pose in front of Plaza del Milagro, a Catholic Charities housing complex for migrant farm workers in Greeley, Colo. *CNS photo by Charlene Myers*



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in Christmas*

# Natural Family Planning Conference Jan 28 at Cathedral

A Natural Family Planning Conference will be presented from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City.

Presenters will include Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, Ph.D., and Dr. Martha Garza, MD.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods wherein the couple observes the naturally occurring signs of the fertile and non-fertile phases of

a woman's cycle for the purpose of either achieving or postponing pregnancy. It is a comprehensive acceptance of the divine gift of fertility within marriage.

According to organizers, NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of every child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP enriches the bond between

husband and wife.

Father Habiger and Dr. Garza will discuss God's plan for marriage and family, the benefits of using NFP, the harmful effects of contraceptives, and the hope for couples struggling with infertility.

This conference is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about Natural Family Planning and how to promote this in parishes. Organizers especially encourage engaged and married couples, medical

professionals, and marriage preparation leaders to participate.

For more information about this conference and to register, visit [www.dodgecitycathedral.com](http://www.dodgecitycathedral.com) or contact Deanna Jones 620-225-4802 x 203, [djones@dodgecitycathedral.com](mailto:djones@dodgecitycathedral.com).



## Priests invited to special NFP symposium Jan. 27

Bishop John B. Brungardt invites all priests of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City to attend an evening with Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, Ph.D, from 5:30-8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 27, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The evening will include a brief social time. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., following which Father Habiger will give a brief presentation on Natural Family Planning with open discussion and conversation. Inform Georgina Paz, 620-227-1531, [gpaz@dcdiocese.org](mailto:gpaz@dcdiocese.org) by Jan. 18, of your plans to participate.

## 'Laypeople must share responsibility for church'

From Page 18

they see the church simply as a collection of people.

"The church, which has its origins in the triune God, is a mystery of communion. As a communion, the church is not only a spiritual reality, but lives in history -- in flesh and blood, so to speak," the pope said.

"The people of God means all of us -- from the pope to the baby most recently baptized," he said.

While faith requires a personal relationship with God, that relationship is lived out in a community in which each person has rights and obligations to the whole, he added.

Pope Benedict urged the diocesan delegates to find ways to help people understand that they belong to a community and that their parish isn't there simply for them to stop by to receive the sacraments when they feel the need.

Being a Christian means sharing the Gospel with others, particularly through acts of charity, he said.

"Do not forget the witness of charity, which unites hearts and opens them to belonging to the church."

"To live charity is a primary form of mission," the pope said. "The word proclaimed becomes visible when it is incarnated in acts of solidarity and sharing and in gestures that concretely demonstrate the face of Christ, the true friend of humanity."

The pope prayed that the charity carried out predominantly by laypeople in Rome's parishes would continue to increase "so that those who live in suffering would feel the church near to them and experience the love of the Father, who is rich in mercy."

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